



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## IV.

## DONN PIATT ON ARTHUR RICHMOND.

IN the "Notes and Comments" of the REVIEW for January, Donn Piatt appears as defender of President Cleveland against what he calls "mere vituperative assaults" in Arthur Richmond's article in the previous number; at which Colonel Piatt expresses himself "disgusted." Should Mr. Cleveland happen to read both, it might be difficult to say at which he himself would be the more disgusted, the "assault," or the defense. Colonel Piatt is indeed almost as "vituperative" as was Richmond, with the addition of wounding in the house of his friends. Among other things of like complimentary tenor and effect touching Cleveland's Administration, Piatt says: "The political condition of affairs is enough to make the old leaders in the time of Jackson turn in their graves." This is discouraging; but there is more like it. Of Cleveland himself, Colonel Piatt, speaking prophetically, says: "That he will not enact so brilliant a rôle as did Old Hickory, we can well know." The utterance of this depreciative vaticination is doubtless quite safe. But more follows; for the Colonel declares that "President Cleveland is not a great man, makes no pretension to statesmanship;"—and so on.

The correctness of statement in all this I would not presume to deny. But, considered as mode and matter of defense against "vituperative assaults," it would certainly prompt Mr. Cleveland to insert in his litany the devout invocation, "Deliver me from my friends!" But, while admitting the correctness of Donn Piatt's statements in regard to President Cleveland, I must point to one thing that challenges correction. Speaking of the present Democracy, Colonel Piatt says: "It is not a party in the sense of that name when President Jackson vetoed the bill perpetuating the United States Bank, *ruined the depositors*," etc. As to the change that is said to have come over the Democratic party since Jackson vetoed the Bank bill and "ruined the depositors," I venture no opinion. Moreover, I think it was quite proper that the bill for the renewal of the United States Bank charter should have been vetoed, because of its monopolistic character; but the statement that General Jackson's veto of the bill "ruined the depositors" is an error of such magnitude as to seem incredible, as having come from Donn Piatt's pen. The fact of record is, when the renewal of its charter was refused, the United States Bank, on reaching the limit of its former charter, proceeded to wind up its affairs, and closed its accounts to the uttermost farthing without the loss of a single dollar to any man living or dead—whether depositor, stockholder, or billholder. Then, to assert that President Jackson's veto "ruined the depositors," is unjust to Jackson and untrue to history.

Probably Colonel Piatt has unconsciously muddled the United States Bank with the institution known as the "United States Bank of Pennsylvania," which ended in disaster, but with which General Jackson had no more to do than Donn Piatt had. The same erroneous statement has not infrequently been made by men more pretentious of knowledge in political history than Colonel Piatt has ever appeared to be. But, all the same, the statement was as incorrect in them as it now is in him. The truth of history demands its correction.

I. J. ALLEN.